

Saint John the Evangelist Eagle

Volume 10 Number 3 September, 2018



From the Pastor's Desk:

Greetings of peace and love from your pastor. It has been a beautiful summertime so far and I hope that each of you have had a wonderful time with family and friends. To all our youths, we are glad that you are well refreshed and back to school. Students, parents and teachers be assured of our prayers for you for a very successful academic year. We do especially reassure those that have gone off to college or leaving home for the first time that this parish community will accompany you with our prayers. We also encourage them to be sure to identify a Catholic Church near to them and continue to exercise their faith, remembering especially to fulfill the weekend obligation of attending Mass. We also wish to welcome those who might be new or returning back to our Parish, please know that this community is excited to have you and we do invite you to feel at home. If there is any way we would be of assistance to you, do not hesitate to approach us.

In this edition of our newsletter I want to particularly appreciate the Councils and committees of our parish for the marvelous work you all have been doing. Thanks for your collaboration with the pastor and staff of our parish. Let me use this medium too to thank Cindy Wilborn whose time as the Pastoral Council chair is coming to an end this fall. We truly appreciate your contributions to the improvement of the pastoral focus of our parish. May God bless you. At the last Pastoral Council meeting, we discussed extensively the need for intensified action in the area of RCIA and adult formation program in our parish. Judy Spangler is working on this and in the next few weeks we hope to have Bible study groups for men and women. We hope there are many among us who would find this interesting and join the groups for our ongoing spiritual formation. We should all look around our neighborhood or among our friends for the unchurched so that we can help them through the RCIA process to join our church family here at St. John.

In the last few months we have been diligently following up on maintenance on the parish center, the grounds and the church building both inside and outside. You will all agree with me that with the age of our church, we will have to be constantly looking out for leaks and cracks; and fortunately we have a good team in the Finance Council and other technical minded parishioners who are duly on top of the matter. I want to say thank you to the chair of the Council and his crew who have invested much of their time following up on these needed repairs. The work is still going on and we will require the contribution of everyone to sustain the effort to keep our facilities in good shape. We are blessed to have this place which we can call our spiritual home.

As usual, our various ministries and committees have been active. In this edition of our newsletter you will find reports of the activities of these groups. I hope you will all read the newsletter so as to be well informed about the things happening in our parish family. Remember the Parish Picnic on Saturday September 29 at the Bicentennial Park starting with Mass at 5pm. Let's make it a family gathering and celebrate our faith.

God bless you all,

Rev. Anselm Kentus Eke, MSP

Your Pastor

Mark Your Calendars...

Saturday, Sept. 29 at 5 pm



Outreach Committee Report

Submitted by Jan Morgenstern

Outreach Committee will be meeting Tuesday, Sept. 11 at 7:00 in the Parish Center. Anyone interested is welcome to attend the meeting.

Parish nurses provide blood pressure checks the 1st Sunday of each month during coffee and rolls. Thank you, nurses!

Blessings for Babies: Members of the parish are invited to participate in the "Blessing of Babies" and receive blessings and prayer during the pregnancy and a holy medal for the baby at baptism. Call the parish office for more information.

Bereavement support meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm in the Parish Center. This is for anyone suffering the loss of someone close to them. Counseling is not provided. Prayer, scripture, and fellowship are shared. Confidentiality is respected.

In November we will have a Memorial Prayer service for those who have had funerals or burials at St. John Parish this past year. We will also plan to have a Memorial Prayer Service at Country Place Living.

The Hoisington Food Bank has served 85 families this year. The food bank serves Hoisington and northern Barton County. Thank you for all the support from St. John Parish.

"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love." - Mother Teresa

Knights of Columbus Report

Submitted by John Yanda

The Labor Day fundraiser quickly approaching. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, requiring help from all members. We need to have more younger men join the K of C. We would like to see someone with social media skills get involved and possibly attract new members this way. Anyone interested in joining the local Knights, please contact Grand Knight John Yanda by phone 620-653-4865 or email jfyanda@cox.net

Social Committee Report

Submitted by Jim Meitner



The Social Committee has a meeting scheduled for Tues., Sept. 11 at 7 pm to finalize the plans for our parish picnic.

We will be welcoming two new parishioners who have graciously agreed to serve on the committee, Kayla and Tyler Reeves.

The Parish Picnic will be held on Saturday, September 29. This year's picnic will follow the same theme as previous years. We will begin the festivities with a polka Mass at 5 pm, under the tent at Bicentennial Park. Food will be served following Mass. There will be a polka band, bounce house, and door prizes. Corn hole games will also be available. Sign up sheets will be in the back of the church (both at St. John's and St. Ann's) beginning Labor Day weekend. On Tues., Sept. 25, the sheets will be removed for the final count. Just a reminder, the August and September Altar Society Guild members are asked to bring one or two dozen cookies for our picnic dessert!

The Social Committee hopes to see you all there. Thank you!

Sacramental Celebrations

Baptism:

May 12 - Hayden Laine Beck, daughter of Kyle and Kacey (Demel) Beck

Marriage:

June 29 - Colton Lagerman & Hannah Wilborn

July 21 - Steven Zecha & Karley Gasser

July 28 - Michael Aylward & Bernice Deines
(at Concordia Lutheran Church)

Congratulations to you all!

Pastoral Council Report

Submitted by Diane Batchman

The Pastoral Council met on August 21. Members present were Judy Spangler, Diane Batchman, Linda Moeder, Leonard Moeder, Richard Neidhart, Rose Debes, Steven Debes, Neil Ochs, John Yanda, Jim Meitner, and Father Eke.

Religious Ed: Opening mass and enrollment are scheduled for Wed. Sept. 19. First class will be Sept. 26. **There is still need for one catechist teacher and an office aide for the evening session on Wednesdays 7:00 – 8:00 pm. Please contact the parish office if you can help out.**

Caritas Fund: We have a fund used for when people ask for financial help (i.e. for gas, food, rent, medical needs). We are looking at ways to use this money to help the less fortunate before they need to ask for financial assistance. There will be a meeting with Steve Hopkins to see if he has ideas to help local individuals.

Parish Picnic: To be held on Sat. Sept. 29. Mass at 5:00 pm at the Bicentennial park, followed by the picnic, games, and dance.

RCIA: No one has currently expressed interest in RCIA for this year. Inquiry sessions to start after Labor Day for anyone interested.

Adult Formation: There has been requests to have a women's adult bible study group. Currently researching instructional materials for the class and considering holding the class on Wednesday evenings at the participant's homes. We are open to developing other groups if there is an interest. There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of church for the women's bible study group and a sign-up sheet to see if there is interest in starting a men's bible study group.

It was mentioned that some people commented that it is cold in church. The side vents can't be adjusted, so it's difficult to direct the air flow. It was noted that the front pews are warmer and it was suggested to put this information in the bulletin to inform everyone.

Someone suggested there should be more positive messages in the bulletin, such as marriage and birth announcements. This can be a challenge because not everyone wants their personal information printed in the bulletin.

There has been a concern over the comfort of some of the kneeler padding. We will check the kneelers to see if there some in need of repair.

R.C.I.A Report

“Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults”

Submitted by Judy Spangler

Do you know someone who is interested in knowing more about the Catholic Church?

Do you know someone who is in need of a church home?

Do you know a spouse of a Catholic who has been attending the Catholic Church?

Do you know someone who is an adult baptized Catholic but has not received the sacraments of Eucharist and/or Confirmation?

RCIA is the place for them!!

Inquiry sessions will begin on Tues. Sept. 11 at 7:00 p.m. in St. John's parish center. If you know of someone who might be interested, please invite them or better yet bring them! Inquiry is the time to come and see and ask questions. For further information, contact Judy Spangler at 620-786-0541 or Fr. Anselm Eke at 620-653-2963.

Religious Ed. Committee Report

Submitted by Rose Debes, DRE

Opening Mass for CCD and CYO will be on Wed. Sept. 19 at 7:00 pm. Enrollment will follow in the parish center. Copies of last year's enrollment forms will be located in the back of church the weekends of Sept. 8/9 and 15/16 for parents to pick up and review/change any information. These forms and payments (\$10/child) will then be collected at enrollment night. Blank forms are available on our website. The first night of CCD and CYO sessions will begin on Wed. Sept. 26. Grades K-5 will have classes from 4:00-5:00 pm. Grades 6-12 will have classes from 7:00-8:00 pm. Thank you to all of the catechists and volunteers for giving of your time to help teach our youth and make this coming year successful.

Thank you, everyone, for the warm welcome and the outpouring of support you have shown me as I have begun the journey of Director of Religious Education. I am looking forward to a wonderful year of serving our community and our youth!

Finance Council Report

Submitted by Leonard Moeder

The Finance Council met on August 13. Members present were Fr. Anselm, Jim Blackwell, Lou Ann Morgenstern, Jay Steinert, and Loretta Kinman. John Debes and Mike Aylward were absent. Special guests present were Duane Polzin and Jim Meitner. Minutes of the May 8 meeting were approved as well as the financial report.

Church Repairs: Mid-Continental Restoration plan to be here the week of August 20, weather permitting. They will work on the inside behind the organ. On the outside, they will repair the pillar on the east side of the church.

Parish Center Flooring: Mike Vitztum of Carpet One in Hays has stopped by to make some adjustments which improved the movement/noise of the flooring.

North Parking Lot Lighting: The dusk to dawn light has been installed behind the parish center and has improved the north parking lot quite a bit.

Caritas Fund: We discussed ideas for use of these funds. It was suggested the Andale Church that had a fire. Surely there would be insurance money due to them but also there would be a deductible to pay. Father mentioned "Circles" which we were to have visited with Steve Hopkins about, but haven't had the opportunity to do so yet. Father Anselm also mentioned that we would possibly need to help families more at Christmas time, maybe keeping it more local.

Director of Religious Education: The new DRE, Rose Debes, began working July 1. She is in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons.

Fence Around Parish Center A/C Units: We will hold off on this until we have taken care of the water issue on the north side of the Parish Center.

Parish Picnic: Jim Meitner, from the Social Committee, was present to request a budget for the picnic. It was approved. They will have the same band, tents, and will be serving chicken with sides and will play cornhole instead of horseshoes.

Grounds: Duane Polzin was present to give input on the grounds. He said he will do what the council wants done. The hackberry tree in the

back of the rectory has been removed by Jim Morgenstern. He will also remove the smoke bush on the west side of the parish center so we can address water issues in the near future. We talked about the problem of rocks on the west side of church. People walk by there, kicking them out onto the sidewalk and grass, causing a problem. Rainwater also washes them out. Putting up a border will not work as it is a tripping hazard and when they do snow removal, it would get ran over. It was suggested to get a bid to pour concrete from the church wall to the sidewalk. We will call to get concrete bids on the west side of church as well as the north side of the parish center due to ongoing water issues.

Christmas Lights: Jim Meitner asked if we want to take down the Christmas lights around the front door and St. Cecilia Window on the south side of church. He recently replaced the dusk-to-dawn light over the front doors and noticed that the Christmas lights are in terrible shape. The track is so brittle and cracked and it breaks easily. The council decided to take them down.

New Budget: The budget for the fiscal year 2018-2019 was approved.

Altar Society Report

Submitted by Loretta Kinman

We continue to cook and serve funeral dinners, as well as host coffee and rolls and take blood pressures the first Sunday of the month after Mass in the parish center. We will soon be choosing a date for a fall dinner to be held in October or November.

A Prayer For All People

We beg You, Lord, to help and defend us.
Deliver the oppressed, pity the insignificant,
raise the fallen, show Yourself to the needy, heal
the sick, bring back those of Your people who
have gone astray, feed the hungry, lift up the
weak, take off the prisoners' chains.

May every nation come to know that You alone
are God, that Jesus Christ is Your Child, that we
are Your people, the sheep that You pasture.

Amen.

- St Clement of Rome

Stuck in the Molasses Swamp

by Br. Joseph Graziano, O.P.
From DominicanFriars.org

*How sad, how lack-luster a life he leads
Who delights to describe the death he sees.*

*How rotten be the heart of a brother
Who snivels 'bout the rot in another!*

One thing we can know for certain about heaven is that this is not it.

Anyone with eyes and ears knows well the incredible number of catastrophes, scandals, fights, wars, murders, and more insidious evils that the world teems with today. The media reeks of bad news, taking “if it bleeds, it leads” to such a new height that the average local rag smells like a slaughterhouse. Of course, the major events are only symptoms of a deeper malady, one that eats away at our culture like leprosy or the plague.

In light of all these concerns, which I by no means intend to downplay, we can be tempted to fall into negativity and complaining, pointing out in person or on some social platform only the worst of things, ignoring the beauty of culture to speak only of apocalyptic cultural trends, or focusing on the sins movies make, rather than their wins. Even if we do not go so far as to publish our opinions, we can tend to highlight in our own minds those things that go wrong in our lives.

Negativity, though, boils down to a bitter-tasting lukewarm draught, like an unheated Cream of Broccoli soup. (If you are thinking “I like Cream of Broccoli soup,” you have clearly never had it cold.) When we let ourselves stew in negativity, we soon become stuck in it. Rather than fighting to bring the Light to a twilight world—or at least admiring the sunset crimson glow still bathing the world—we stoop to merely commenting on how dark everything is getting.

Yes, there are many problems in the world: we live in a fallen world, full of wickedness and suffering. Yes, it is important to point out the malady so that people then see that they need the cure which Christ gave to His Church. Yes, we should seek perfection in all things.

But first, see the good of the thing that may be flawed, and do not despair that God permits those imperfections. Glory be to Him for dappled things, for in the variety and limitations of all created things, we see as in a mirror darkly the beauty of Him who is without change.

Once we are free of the chains of negativity, free to wonder in joy at the beauty of God present in the beauty of all creatures, and most especially in the beauty of each person, then we can truly shine like stars in the midst of a darkening world.

Then, too, we can look beyond the current reality to the incredible potential in each person, and in doing so, we become, like God, a Lover, for only the lover can look past all current faults to see future good.

And, after all, since in Baptism the Holy Trinity comes to abide in our hearts, if we understand correctly that heaven is first and foremost dwelling in perfect joy in the presence of the Holy Trinity, then heaven has in fact already begun on earth.

“Oh Lord, God of Hosts, happy the man who trusts in you.”



Prayer of St. Bonaventure to the Holy Spirit

Lord Jesus, as God's Spirit came down and rested upon you,
May the same Spirit rest on us,
Bestowing his sevenfold gifts.
First, grant us the gift of understanding,
By which your precepts may enlighten our minds.
Second, grant us counsel by which we may follow
in your footsteps on the path of righteousness.
Third, grant us courage,
by which we may ward off the enemy's attacks.
Fourth, grant us knowledge,
by which we can distinguish good from evil.
Fifth, grant us piety,
by which we may acquire compassionate hearts.
Sixth, grant us fear,
by which we may draw back from evil and submit to what is good.
Seventh, grant us wisdom,
that we may taste fully the life-giving sweetness of your love.



Birthday Celebrations

SEPTEMBER

Carter Shultz.....2nd
 Kylie Kinman.....4th
 Jozet Littrell.....4th
 Donald Sanders.....5th
 Lois Klug.....6th
 Debbie Smith.....6th
 Gene Weiser.....7th
 Sheena Gocela.....8th
 Vic Hoffman.....8th
 Patricia McConnell...8th
 Michael Aylward.....9th
 Robin Barrett.....9th
 Donita Crutcher.....9th
 Robert Gerritzen.....9th
 Caiden Hoffman.....9th
 Karson Kinman.....10th
 Xavier Robinson.....10th
 Joyce White.....10th
 Layton Hoffman.....11th
 Michael McCurry...11th
 Pam Willis.....11th
 Kaelynn Axman.....12th
 Jean Jones.....12th
 Rhonda Boxberger..13th
 Kenneth Steiner.....13th
 Brenda Unrein.....13th
 Eric Barrett.....14th
 Randall Dumler.....14th
 Taylen Morales.....14th
 Hailey Petersilie.....14th
 Kassy Petersilie.....14th
 Lexus Petersilie.....14th
 Ron Smith.....14th
 Colton Staudinger...14th
 Margaret Evers.....15th
 Mea Holloway.....15th
 Marlene Lange.....15th
 Kate Debes.....16th
 Leyton Mooney.....17th
 Janet Jonas.....18th
 Laeya Beck.....19th
 Ron Goetz.....19th
 Brian Quade.....19th

Patricia Redetzke....20th
 Cecilia Schneweis...20th
 Richard Reichuber...21st
 Shawn Ingram.....22nd
 Robert Rome.....22nd
 John Debes.....23rd
 Nancy Kaiser.....24th
 Graham Schoendaler..25th
 Ashley Shultz.....25th
 Dana Stoss.....26th
 Alyssa Johnson.....28th
 Jadyynn Andereck...29th
 Cole Grabast.....29th
 Douglas Axman.....30th

OCTOBER

Luis Vasquez.....1st
 Robert Glynn.....2nd
 Dwight Nett.....2nd
 Zachary Rubio.....2nd
 Zade Sanders.....2nd
 Benjamin Beck.....3rd
 Domonick Hendricks..3rd
 Abigail Hurter.....3rd
 Jill Applegate.....5th
 Jessica Preisner.....5th
 Jillian Axman.....6th
 Mary Ann Behr.....6th
 Scott Klug.....6th
 Keri Schremmer.....6th
 Merri Breit.....8th
 Todd Boor.....9th
 Kiley Demel.....9th
 Ethan Hitschmann...9th
 Tammy Sanders.....9th
 Ethan Smith.....10th
 Kathy Hoffman.....11th
 Carla Richards.....11th
 Jeanne Steiner.....11th
 Jo Ann Bieberle.....13th
 Chad Beck.....14th
 Jared Batchman.....16th
 Jim Schneweis.....16th
 Ronald Batchman...18th
 Ryan Bieberle.....19th

Angi Beck.....20th
 Thad Foltz.....20th
 Riley Brungardt.....22nd
 Mackenzie Kaiser...22nd
 Shane Andereck.....23rd
 Presley Brungardt...23rd
 Larry Deines.....23rd
 Carey Brummer.....25th
 Pam Redetzke.....25th
 Evan Applegate.....26th
 Kenneth Bieker.....26th
 Kyle Jeffrey.....26th
 Keith Kinman.....27th
 Genevieve Reif.....27th
 Jenna Hoffman.....27th
 Alaina Rubio.....28th
 Doris Weiser.....28th
 Kaiden Jeffrey.....29th
 LouAnn Morgenstern..29th
 Gerry Bieberle.....31st

NOVEMBER

Faye Doonan.....1st
 Tricia Schremmer...2nd
 Jerry Stoss.....2nd
 Marty Haberman.....4th
 Chase Robinson.....4th
 Sharla Schremmer...4th
 Sarah Detter.....5th
 Tracie Rubio.....6th
 Natalie Sanders.....6th
 Keith Schneweis.....6th
 Richard Neidhart...7th
 Cole McCurry.....8th
 Toni Schneweis.....8th
 Ervin McConnell...9th
 Melissa Schremmer...9th
 Bill Schremmer.....10th
 Peter Debes.....11th
 Dennis Fercking...11th
 Karah Birzer.....12th
 Diane Deines.....12th
 Johnelle Moshier...12th
 Dylan Richards.....12th
 Matt Morgenstern...14th

Leyton Haxton.....15th
 Debbie Finn.....16th
 Trevor Kaiser.....17th
 Avery Brewer.....18th
 Justin Cramer.....18th
 Drake Gruis.....18th
 Melissa Stout.....18th
 Joseph Doze.....20th
 Sandra Moshier.....20th
 Brian Brummer.....23rd
 Delphine Hickey...23rd
 Kristie Kaiser.....23rd
 Evan Smith.....25th
 Nicole Jeffrey.....26th
 Matt Koelsch.....26th
 Ann Schremmer.....27th
 Terry Reif.....28th
 Eldon Reif.....30th

